

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01 IO-14 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 EB-11

COME-00 AID-20 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 FEAE-00 SCI-06 DRC-01

/176 W

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R 021208Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5639

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MT, UK

SUBJ: UK-MALTA RELATIONS

REF: VALLETTA 0945

1. IN JULY 1 PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT AFTER HIS RETURN FROM
SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN LONDON, P.M. MINTOFF SAID
THAT THE FOLLOWING AGREEMENT HAD BEEN MADE WITH HMG:

(A) A ONE-MILLION -POUND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT TO BE
SPENT ON GOM PROJECTS TO STRENGTHEN THE MALTESE ECONOMY;

(B) GOM WILL MAKE IMMEDIATELY A 674,349,27.. POUNDS STERLING
PAYMENT ON OUTSTANDING EXCHEQUER LOANS; AND 678,691.60 POUNDS
STERLING NEXT YEAR, THUS "RESTORING THE POSITION." (PRESUMABLY
MEANING BRINGING PAYMENTS UP TO SCHEDULE).

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(C) HMG WILL MAKE AVAILABLE TO GOM AT A MODERATE COST PETROLEUM STORAGE FACILITIES FORMERLY USED BY BRITISH FORCES IN MALTA.

2. MINTOFF DESCRIBED HIS TALKS WITH WILSON, CALLAGHAN AND MASON AS BEING HELD IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF WARMEST FRIENDSHIP, AND HAVING LED TO THE STRENGTHENING OF THE CLOSE LINK BETWEEN MALTA AND U.K.

3. MINTOFF GAVE NO DETAILS OF S.I. MEETING OR OF HIS TALKS WITH THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER IN PARIS JUNE 27, EN ROUTE TO LONDON.

4. QUESTIONS FROM OPPOSITION LEADERS FOLLOWING MINTOFF STATEMENT WERE INEFFECTIVE, AND, AS IS OFTEN THE CASE, MINTOFF'S ANSWERS MADE THEM LOOK RATHER FOOLISH.

5. COMMENT: MINTOFF DECISION TO GO AHEAD ON ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE DURING HIS LAST VISIT TO LONDON BODES WELL FOR THE CONTINUATION OF BASE AGREEMENT, AND INDICATES THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN GIVEN SOME SORT OF GENERAL ASSURANCE THAT DEFENSE REVIEW WILL NOT AFFECT MALTA ADVERSELY. GETZ

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Message Attributes

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Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005